



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

August 5, 2005

TWO GUATEMALAN MEN CHARGED WITH PRODUCING FALSE DOCUMENTS

The Scheme Included Making and Selling Fake Government ID's

Norfolk, VA—Two Central American men are facing charges that they produced fraudulent social security and alien registration cards on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents (ICE) from the Norfolk Office arrested Margarito Diaz-Ortiz and Perfecto Perez-Perez, both of Guatemala, on criminal charges following a lengthy investigation.

Both men appeared in U.S. District Court in Norfolk yesterday and were ordered held without bond. They have been charged with violating 18 USC Section 1028 and 42 USC Section 408, both relating to the production and sale of fraudulent government identification cards.

Diaz-Ortiz had submitted an application for an immigration benefit and was authorized to remain in the United States pending the adjudication of that benefit request. He also had a valid employment work authorization. Perez-Perez is illegally in the United States. He was born in Guatemala but also claims Mexican citizenship.

When the individuals were arrested ICE Agents seized more than 1,000 blank social security and resident alien card templates, \$37,000 in cash, a firearm and equipment used to produce the fraudulent cards. During the course of the investigation ICE agents also arrested seven illegal aliens on administrative immigration violations and seized other evidence that could be part of the criminal cases. Agents also recovered legitimate identification cards that were being used by a number of illegal aliens in what appears to be an identity theft. The case remains under investigation.

The FBI and the Virginia State Police assisted ICE agents in the investigation. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for the enforcement of border, economic, infrastructure and transportation security laws. ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terrorist and criminal activities.